27 April 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: G. Robert Blakey's Visit to CIA Headquarters on 27 April 1979

Participants:

1. On 27 April 1979, Mr. G. Robert Blakey, Chief Counsel and Staff Director of the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA), visited CIA Headquarters. The purpose of his visit was two-fold: (a) to examine Agency held material requested by the HSCA in conjunction with its investigation into the assassination of President John F. Kennedy; and (b) to designate that portion of Agency held material to be sequestered.

2. Mr. Blakey examined only that material held . He apparently did not go elsewhere within the Agency, to examine their holdings. He stayed for about an hour; however, he spent only twenty or thirty minutes discussing and examining the contents of some fifteen safes of Agency material held in . A recapitulation of his remarks follows.

3. Categories of material to be sequestered: Mr. Blakey described the Agency-HSCA record as comprising three general categories of material.

Category 1a: Classified material, from Agency holdings, requested by the HSCA, which HSCA staff members reviewed in Agency Headquarters. [Comment: Files reviewed by HSCA staff members fill nine four-drawer safes. The files include the Lee Harvey OSWALD 201, which fills two four-drawer safes. OSWALD's 201 file was not completely reviewed by HSCA staff members.]

Category 1b: Classified material, from Agency holdings, requested by the HSCA, which staff members had not reviewed (for one reason or another). [Comment: Files not reviewed by HSCA staff members fill almost four four-drawer safes. An inventory in the form of an index card file of files not reviewed as well as of files reviewed by the HSCA is available.]

Category 2: Material generated by the HSCA from Agency classified holdings made available to the HSCA in response to the latter's request. NB: Mr. Blakey stated that he considered this material to be the property of the HSCA and, therefore, not releasable to the public or other unauthorized personnel under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. [Comment: This material fills almost two four-drawer safes. An inventory has been completed of the material turned over to the Agency by the HSCA.]

Category 3: Classified correspondence exchanged between this Agency and the HSCA. [Comment: Classified correspondence includes all classified letters exchanged with the HSCA, errata sheets (pointing out inaccurate quotations, document citations, etc., in HSCA draft reports — classified and unclassified), copies of letters, supporting documents (or copies of documents passed to the HSCA for use in executive sessions or obtaining depositions from Agency employees, either retired or presently employed, and logs held in OLC Registry, as well as in other Agency components, . Mr. Blakey was quite concerned that copies of errata sheets (prepared primarily by DO) should not become part of the public record.]

4. Categories of material to be destroyed: Of that material turned over by the HSCA to the CIA, Mr. Blakey stated that the following types of material could be destroyed: Typewriter ribbons, stenographic notes, and cassettes (recordings of interviews, depositions, etc.). He asked that miscellaneous drafts and notes (Unclassified) based upon Agency material should be held with other Category 2 material.

5. Memorandum of Agreement: Mr. Blakey suggested that the Agency prepare a memorandum (or letter) of agreement which would set forth, in general terms, the Agency's proposal as to the handling of the material to be sequestered. His signature on the memorandum (or letter) would denote his agreement.

6. Mr. Blakey was told that in order to carry out HSCA's desire that the three categories of material be held in sealed and sequestered storage, the Agency proposed to make a photographic record of each official Agency document made available to the HSCA in response to the latter's specific request. [Comment: It would not be necessary to photograph copies of specific documents which had already been copied by Xerox or

other means before being made available to the HSCA for its review. Copies already made could be included in the Agency-HSCA record, thus saving the Agency some time and money.]

7. Upon completion of the task of photographing Agency held documents, the film of Categories 1a and 1b (excluding those documents already copied by Xerox or other means), HSCA generated materials (Category 2), and Agency-HSCA correspondence (Category 3) including all material (or copies thereof) held in [redacted] will be prepared for sequestered storage. Such material will be sealed and either turned over to the Archivist of the United States or held in Agency Archives. In either case, access to this material will be allowed only after fifty years, according to Mr. BLakey, or to Members of Congress acting in an official capacity.

8. A draft memorandum setting forth in general terms the categories mentioned above and the Agency's tentative proposal has been forwarded to the Office of General Counsel. Inasmuch as other Agency components are involved, the OGC will consult with those components at a later date.

9. Added Note: Mr. Blakey informed the undersigned that he was passing the HSCA reports to the GPO in three days which would mean 30 April and indicated further that the galley proofs would possibly not be available for at least three weeks, possibly more. Since he will, according to his own statements, read the proofs before they are sent to the Agency, we can possibly expect the galley proofs sometime in early June.

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